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Ex-CIAer faces more jail

By BRIAN KATES

Former CIA agent Edwin Wilson faces up to 25 years in prison when he is sentenced Nov. 4 for conspiring to murder two federal prosecutors, a business associate and five witnesses who linked him to a scheme to transport arms and explosives to Libya.

A Manhattan Federal Court jury deliberated four hours Thursday night before convicting Wilson of the charges, and 14 others, including obstruction of justice and retaliating against six government witnesses. The jury of 10 men and two women acquitted Wilson of conspiring with his son, Erik, to murder two other federal prosecutors from Washington who had investigated his weapons dealings.

Erik Wilson was not on trial.

AT THE CLOSE of the prosecution case, a further charge against Edwin Wilson of conspiring to murder his

wife because she had sued him for \$7 million had been dismissed by Judge Edward Weinfeld for lack of evidence.

Wilson already is serving 32 years in prison for selling arms and explosives to Libya.

Key evidence against Wilson had been a tape of the defendant ordering the death of a government informant and a handwritten "hit list" of people he wanted killed, the federal prosecutor said in his summation of the government's case.

Defense attorney Michael Dowd had argued that Wilson was the victim of a plot by the CIA to keep him quiet because he "knows a lot" about covert CIA activities. Dowd dismissed the government's evidence as the creation of "three desperate men"—the federal informants who had testified against the former spy.

Wilson was charged with hiring fellow inmates to arrange the murders at \$50,000 to \$500,000 per hit. Prosecutors said no one was killed because the inmates told the FBI about the plot.



Edwin Wilson—found guilty

AP

Former Intelligence Agent Convicted of Attempted Murder

By ARNOLD H. LUBASCH

Edwin P. Wilson, a former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency, was convicted Thursday night of attempting to murder two prosecutors and six witnesses.

The jury's verdict came after three hours of deliberations in Federal District Court in Manhattan. Mr. Wilson, 55 years old, could face up to 25 years in prison for attempted murder and additional time on lesser charges, but he was acquitted of a conspiracy charge carrying a sentence of life in prison.

Judge Edward Weinfeld set Nov. 4 for Mr. Wilson's sentencing. The intelligence agent is already serving prison sentences of 32 years for shipping arms to Libya.

The jury of nine men and three women reached the verdict at 9:25 P.M. after a full day of hearing summations and final instructions on the laws governing the case.

Evidence Called 'Overwhelming'

The prosecution's summation said there was "overwhelming evidence" that Mr. Wilson had asked other inmates in prison to help him carry out plans to commit several murders. Eugene Neal Kaplan, the chief prosecutor, told the jury Mr. Wilson became "a desperate man" after being lured out of Libya and arrested for illegal arms shipments.

"He decided that his despair could

only be ended by killing people," Mr. Kaplan said, "and he set out to do just that."

Mr. Kaplan stressed a taped conversation in prison last summer between Mr. Wilson and an inmate about another inmate, Wayne Trimmer, who had become a key witness against Mr. Wilson.

"Get Trimmer dead before court," Mr. Wilson said in the transcript of the tape. In those few words, the prosecutor told the jury, "Wilson admits the entire scheme."

The taped conversation and other evidence, the prosecutor said, corroborated the testimony of Mr. Trimmer and two other inmates about Mr. Wilson's plans to kill witnesses to prevent them from testifying.

Defense Invoked Common Sense

A defense attorney, Michael G. Dowd, said in his summation that the three inmates had made up the accusation in an effort to gain their own freedom from prison.

Regarding tapes of some of the conversations, Mr. Dowd argued that parts were inaudible, other parts were ambiguous and the rest was merely "jailhouse talk."

"You can't suspend reason and common sense," he told the jury. He said Mr. Wilson would not recruit inept inmates for a murder plot because the former agent was a "cunning and

shrewd" man who had "served undercover in perilous situations."

The indictment of Mr. Wilson included charges of conspiracy, attempted murder, retaliation against witnesses and obstruction of justice.

While he was in prison waiting for trials in the Libyan arms cases, he plotted to kill witnesses and prosecutors, according to the charges. He asked an inmate, Mr. Trimmer, to find a "hit man" to commit the murders, the charges said, but the inmate informed the Federal authorities.

Then, the charges continued, Mr. Wilson offered to pay \$500,000 to two other inmates to arrange the murder of Mr. Trimmer for informing. The two inmates, David R. Vogel and John Randolph, also informed the authorities.

Part of one charge, which accused Mr. Wilson of planning to kill his former wife, was dismissed by the judge before jury deliberations began, because Mrs. Wilson was not a witness whose death would obstruct justice.

Mr. Wilson did not testify in the trial, which began on Oct. 4. The witnesses included the three informers and an undercover agent posing as a contract killer who said he had been paid \$5,800 by Mr. Wilson's 22-year-old son, Erik, as a down payment for the murders.

Erik Wilson was to have gone on trial for aiding his father in the murder conspiracy, but the prosecutor said he would reconsider the matter because the verdict Thursday indicated the jury did not regard the son as a knowing participant in the scheme.

The jury did not convict Edwin Wilson of Federal conspiracy charges, apparently because it did not believe his son was a knowing conspirator and a defendant cannot conspire alone under the Federal law.

YORK TIMES

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Jury Begins Deliberation In Ex-Agent's Trial

Jury deliberations began yesterday in the trial of Edwin P. Wilson, a former intelligence agent charged with planning to murder two prosecutors and several witnesses.

Federal District Judge Edward Weinfeld in Manhattan gave his final instructions to the jury after the prosecution and the defense had delivered their summations. The jury then deliberated into the evening.

If convicted, Mr. Wilson could face life in prison. The 55-year-old former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency is already serving a long prison term for shipping arms to Libya.

The prosecution's summation yesterday contended that the jury had heard "overwhelming evidence" that Mr. Wilson had asked other inmates to

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prison to help him carry out plans to commit several murders.

A defense attorney, Michael G. Dowd, said in his summation that the Government had the burden of proving the charges beyond a reasonable doubt. He added, "Mr. Wilson, like anyone else, is presumed innocent."

The indictment charged Mr. Wilson with conspiracy, attempted murder, retaliation against witnesses and obstruction of justice.

WASHINGTON POST

DATE 21 OCT. 83 PAGE A20

Former CIA Agent Convicted of Murder Attempts

NEW YORK—Former CIA agent Edwin P. Wilson was convicted yesterday of the attempted murder of two federal prosecutors, a business associate and five government witnesses who linked him to the sale of explosives to Libya.

Wilson, already serving 32 years in prison for the sale of weapons and explosives to Libya, was acquitted of the most serious charge against him: conspiracy to murder two federal prosecutors who had investigated his weapons dealings.

In all, the U.S. District Court jury convicted Wilson of 15 counts and acquitted him of three. He faces up to 25 years in prison.

The government had charged that Wilson and his son, Erik, who will be tried separately, conspired to kill the two prosecutors.

Wilson, 55, was charged with hiring fellow inmates to arrange the murders at \$50,000 to \$500,000 each. Prosecutors said no one was slain because the inmates told the FBI about the plot.

ALL STREET JOURNAL

DATE 21 OCT. 83 PAGE 1

* * *
Ex-CIA agent Edwin Wilson was convicted of the attempted murder of two federal prosecutors, a business associate and five government witnesses who linked him to the sale of explosives to Libya.
* * *

Charge Dropped in Trial Of Former C.I.A. Agent

By The Associated Press

A Federal district judge yesterday dismissed charges that a former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency, Edwin P. Wilson, tried to arrange the slaying of his former wife but let a series of other charges stand.

Barbara Wilson failed to appear as a Government witness against her former husband Monday at the court in Manhattan.

After the Government rested its case this morning, Judge Edward Weinfeld dismissed a charge that Mr. Wilson tried to obstruct justice by trying to have his former wife slain.

Mr. Wilson remains charged with a conspiracy to murder two government prosecutors and a series of Federal witnesses who had linked him to shipments of explosives to Libya.

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COURT TOLD WILSON WANTED WIFE DEAD

Third Informer Testifies About
'Plots' by Ex-C.I.A. Agent

By ARNOLD H. LUBASCH

Edwin P. Wilson, a former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency, was described in trial testimony yesterday as a man who hired professional killers to murder his former wife.

The testimony came from John Randolph, the third informer to testify at Mr. Wilson's trial on murder conspiracy charges in Federal District Court in Manhattan. Mr. Wilson is already serving a sentence for illegal arms shipments to Libya.

Mr. Randolph said Mr. Wilson had asked him to employ a gang of killers called the "Aryan Brotherhood" to murder several people, including some prospective witnesses and his former wife, Barbara Wilson.

"He told me Barbara was hiding from him, she was scared of him," Mr. Randolph recalled, adding that Mr. Wilson had complained that his former wife was suing him for a \$7 million property settlement.

"I want her to go on a long, long trip," Mr. Wilson was quoted as telling Mr. Randolph in a Federal prison where they were being held.

'Just Make Her Disappear'

According to Mr. Randolph, at first Mr. Wilson suggested that the killer hired to murder his former wife should "break her neck" and "crash her car" to make it look like an accident, but later said, "Just make her disappear."

Afterward, Mr. Randolph said, Mr. Wilson wanted the killer to take all of her jewelry, particularly a diamond ring, adding that "the diamond was a good-luck piece — and he wanted it back."

Mr. Wilson, 55 years old, shook his head from time to time as he sat listening to the testimony. He could face up to life in prison if convicted of plotting murders.

Eugene Neal Kaplan, the chief prosecutor, presented documents that Mr. Randolph identified as information that Mr. Wilson had provided to help

find Barbara Wilson. The documents included a description of her and addresses where she might be found.

The prosecutor played a taped conversation that Mr. Randolph said had concerned Mr. Wilson's instructions for a killer to murder his former wife, a key witness, Wayne Trimmer, and some other people. "I'll tell him to do Barbara first," Mr. Randolph said, on the transcript of the tape. Mr. Wilson replied, "Yeah."

"Try Trimmer above all," Mr. Wilson added, on the transcript. "That's 100 percent of the problem. That's even before Barbara. If he thinks he can do him, do him."

Mr. Randolph supported testimony given Thursday by David R. Vogel, another informer. Both are convicted bank robbers who met Mr. Wilson in prison. Mr. Vogel testified that Mr. Wilson had offered \$500,000 for the murder of Mr. Trimmer, who was also a prisoner.

The defense has told the jury that the two informers fabricated the accusation against Mr. Wilson because they wanted a deal to free them from long prison terms. Judge Edward Weinfeld said the trial would resume Monday, when the cross-examination of Mr. Randolph continues.

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NEW YORK

WILSON

Former CIA agent Edwin Wilson ordered his former wife's neck broken and the crime concealed as an auto accident because she was trying to get \$7 million of his money, a prosecution witness testified Friday.

But witness John Randolph, a convicted bank robber, said Wilson then had second thoughts about getting tax agents involved in the death of Barbara Wilson and directed "just make her disappear. Pull a Houdini act."

Randolph, serving a 16-year sentence at the federal prison in Otisville, N.Y., where he met Wilson, testified in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

Wilson, already serving 32 years in prison for shipping arms and explosives to Libya, is standing trial on charges that he ordered the murders of 11 people from his prison cell.

None of the intended victims was injured.

The would-be victims included his wife, as well as a key informer against Wilson, some of the witnesses who testified against him at his trials in Alexandria, Va., and Houston, and former business associates who owed him money.

Wilson allegedly concocted the murder scheme while he was in prison in Manhattan. It was brought to the attention of the FBI and an undercover agent who was assigned to the case.

Randolph said Wilson initially wanted his former wife's neck broken and the crime made to look like it resulted from a car accident to keep her from gaining control of his assets. He later changed his mind.

"I'm not going to give her \$7 million," the witness quoted Wilson as telling him in prison. "I want her to go on a long, long trip."

Randolph said Wilson made hand-written notes to an FBI undercover agent posing as a hitman detailing Mrs. Wilson's description and habits and where she might be located in either New Jersey or Virginia.

Wilson gave his approval to the killer to take all of Mrs. Wilson's jewelry except a diamond ring that Wilson wanted for himself because "it was a good piece," Randolph quoted the defendant as saying.

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